

IRAQ HUMANITARIAN CRISIS ANALYSIS 2020

17 February 2020

Each year, Sida conducts a humanitarian allocation exercise in which a large part of its humanitarian budget is allocated to emergencies worldwide. The allocation and subsequent disbursement of funds takes place in the beginning of the year to ensure predictability for humanitarian organizations and to allow for best possible operational planning. In an effort to truly adhere to the humanitarian principles, Sida's humanitarian assistance is grounded in the four humanitarian principles, and in particular **impartiality**, with its compelling urge to ensure that humanitarian action is carried out based on "**needs alone**", giving priority to the "**most urgent cases of distress**". Therefore, Sida's allocation methodology is grounded in several objective indicators such as; the *scale* of humanitarian needs (number of people in need), the *severity* of humanitarian needs (including food insecurity/IPC levels), the number of people targeted for the humanitarian response, the *financial coverage* of the respective humanitarian appeal, *national capacities* to respond and underlying risks, as well as distinct indicators related to *forgotten crises*. Sida also strongly supports the humanitarian coordination structures. Besides this initial allocation, another part of the humanitarian budget is set aside as an emergency reserve for sudden onset emergencies and deteriorating humanitarian situations. This reserve allows Sida to quickly allocate funding to any humanitarian situation throughout the year, including additional funding to Iraq.

For 2020, the Iraq crisis is allocated an initial **73.4 MSEK**. Close monitoring and analysis of the situation in Iraq will continue throughout the year and will inform possible decisions on additional funding.

1. CRISIS OVERVIEW

1.1. Crisis overview

Instability, conflicts and war have ravaged Iraq for decades. The latest war, between Iraqi security forces and allies and the non-state armed actor IS (2014–2017), triggered one of the largest humanitarian crises in the world, forcing nearly 6 million people into displacement. During the conflict, there were constant breaches of International Humanitarian Law and the security forces were often unable to protect civilians. By the end of 2017 virtually the whole territory controlled by IS was retaken, but the security situation remains volatile in large parts of Iraq.

The humanitarian situation has improved in the last two years. The UN estimates that the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance in Iraq decreased by 40 % compared to 2019, but the number of people in acute need remains significant. Of the 4.1 million people in need, 1.77 million people are acutely in need of some form of humanitarian assistance. Programming changes from emergency aid delivery during armed conflict to addressing the needs of millions of IDPs, returnees and other vulnerable Iraqis living in areas impacted by the military operations.

In late 2019, approximately 4.5 million IDPs are estimated to have returned, in many cases to areas with extensive damage to infrastructure and livelihoods, lack of basic services – water, electricity, schools and health clinics – and contamination by mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO). The needs for psychosocial support and trauma care are extensive, including for children and families of detainees and missing persons.

The large number Iraqis who remain in protracted displacement (1.4 million) are in need of protection and humanitarian assistance. More than three thirds of them have been displaced for more than three years. There is a common perception that those with means and ability to independently return to their areas of origin have already done so, while the population that remains displaced will continue to need considerable help from political, humanitarian, and development actors both during their displacement and in order to return. In a survey, 90 percent indicated that they would remain in displacement in the short term and 70 percent indicated that they would remain in displacement in the long term due to e.g. community tensions in areas of origin, damaged infrastructure and lack of security, services or livelihoods.

The protracted humanitarian crisis is exacerbated by the lingering effects of past conflicts and by long-standing ethnic and sectarian tensions in Iraq and the region. The government and state institutions are weak, and corruption is widespread. Although efforts are underway to rebuild the country, significant barriers to return endure, including continued security concerns; lack of social cohesion; issues related to documentation; lack of livelihoods; and destroyed or damaged infrastructure. In Iraq's southern governorates tensions are high due to scarcity of clean, safe water caused by aging infrastructure, climactic factors and poor governance, which has led to a threatening health crisis.

In October 2019, protests against the recently-elected federal government erupted in Baghdad and other governorates. In a few months more than 500 people lost their lives and approximately 20,000 were injured in clashes between protesters and government forces. As a consequence of the protests, the Prime Minister left office on 1 December 2019.

In early 2020, the Iranian Major General Qassem Suleimani was killed in an U.S. airstrike outside Baghdad airport, escalating tensions in the entire region. The political environment is likely to continue to be tense.

Iraq is highly prone to natural disasters – including droughts, floods and earthquakes – and vulnerability caused by environmental degradation and neglect, weak legal and regulatory frameworks for environmental management, and weak institutional arrangements and capacities. Furthermore, climate change and natural disasters pose multiple challenges in the post-conflict context, as a result of their impact on poverty and livelihoods and conflict over natural resources. Climate-induced migration from rural to urban areas can potentially trigger conflict and violence as it generates competition for (already strained) urban services and resources.

In addition to this, as Turkish forces entered northern Syria in late 2019, Syrian refugees fled to Iraq in need of basic services, shelter and protection. By the end of 2019, approximately 17,000 Syrians had entered Iraq, bringing the total number of Syrian refugees to more than 234,000.

Humanitarian needs will remain high in Iraq in 2020 and beyond as multiple, unpredicted and volatile dynamics are expected to continue. At the same time, there is clear ambition from the UN and other humanitarian actors to increasingly focus on the most vulnerable people in need. UNHCR and other UN agencies will continue key partnerships with government authorities and explore viable options to transition out of humanitarian interventions and pursue the systematic inclusion of people of concern into national development plans and the programmes of development-oriented UN agencies.

There will possibly be a higher demand for services and infrastructure, increasing the demand for durable solutions and better coordination between humanitarian and development actors. The humanitarian response will have to focus on protection interventions, but many issues also concern long-term solutions where development actors need to step in. There is an opportunity for finding synergies between humanitarian and long-term interventions that should be utilised.

1.2. Geographical areas and affected population

The **governorate of Ninewa in North-Western Iraq**, and its capital Mosul, was most heavily affected by the conflict and is at the centre of the humanitarian response. Ninewa remains the governorate that is both the area of origin for the largest percentage of IDPs (77 per cent come from Ninewa) as well as the governorate hosting the largest number of IDPs (53 per cent of all IDPs are in Ninewa). Most of Ninewa and parts of **Anbar governorate**, where half of the people in acute need of support live, was under IS control for up to four years and thereafter suffered extensive destruction in the battles to retake control of the territory. Almost a fourth of all people identified as in acute need by the UN are concentrated in three districts, out of 63 assessed: Mosul and Telafar in Ninewa, and Falluja in Anbar. These are also among the areas with highest overall poverty levels in the country. The central governorates of Salah-al Din and Kirkuk in central Iraq are also heavily affected by the conflict and still face many humanitarian challenges.

The Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) was relatively stable but greatly affected as the region hosts a large number of IDPs and most of the Syrian refugees.

The Humanitarian Needs Overview estimates that overall there are **4.1 million people in need** of humanitarian assistance in Iraq. Nearly half (**1.77 million people**, including 816,000 children) have needs that meet extreme and catastrophic thresholds (acute severity) as a result of experiencing partial or full collapse of living standards and access to basic goods and services, loss of livelihoods assets, and widespread physical and mental harm.

The Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) have identified several particularly vulnerable groups. These include rather broad categories, e.g. female-headed households, women and girls, survivors of violence (including people with perceived affiliation with IS) and people with disabilities. In return locations, adolescent boys are particularly vulnerable, as they are more exposed to the risk of child labour, recruitment into armed forces and detention than girls. 46 % of the people in acute need are children under 17, 50 % are aged 18–59 and 4 % are above 60 years old. There are an equal number of girls and boys and women and men. 15 % are people with disabilities.

Widows are a particularly vulnerable group. Due to many years of conflict killing many men and boys, UN estimates the number of widows in Iraq to be roughly 1.5 million. Forced marriages, honour crimes, trafficking and sexual exploitation and abuse are rife. Domestic violence and child abuse are also common crimes. These facts, reported by various UN agencies, should be taken into consideration during programming for protection interventions.

IDPs cite the lack of employment/livelihood opportunities among their top concerns, along with irregular access to food, health, shelter and education.

The HNO identifies three main areas of concern, with returnees being the most affected:

- Critical problems related to physical and mental wellbeing (1.46 million people in acute need)
- Critical problems related to living standards (1.53 million in acute need)
- Critical problems related to resilience and recovery (2.43 million people in acute need)

With protracted displacement expected to endure in the coming years, addressing the protection concerns of Iraq's IDPs is a primary focus for humanitarians. For IDPs living outside of traditional camp settings, all of these uncertainties are multiplied. Special attention is needed for families with perceived affiliations to extremist groups, who are often subjected to discrimination in camps and stigma from their communities.

Water, sanitation, education and health infrastructure and services are damaged or overburdened. Only 39 per cent of households have safely-managed drinking water and outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases continue to affect the population. UNICEF reports issues of violence against children, psychosocial distress, lack of official identity documents and lack of access to basic services, including education.

In the forthcoming 2020 HRP, 1.77 million people among the most severely affected returnee and IDP populations will be targeted to receive aid; these include a growing number of returnee and IDP populations both in and out of camps, as well as IDPs living with host communities. The support is primarily directed to districts in north-western Iraq.

1.3. Critical assumptions, risks and threats

Risks to affected people and communities

Millions of Iraqis face multiple risks and challenges, both in camps and as they return from displacement. Some of the most prominent risks are described below. IDPs are fairly consistent in their motives for remaining displaced, citing damaged or destroyed housing as the primary factor, followed by lack of livelihoods and basic services, concerns about security and/or social cohesion, and presence (actual and perceived) of unexploded ordnance.

Protection risks are at the forefront. As camps have been consolidated and closed, protection partners report that families have been pushed or forced to return prematurely and that people unable to achieve sustainable returns find no other solution than secondary or tertiary displacement, in or out of camps, and with each displacement become more vulnerable. **Forced or coerced returns** are occurring on a larger scale than anticipated in Anbar and Ninewa governorates and increasing elsewhere. Security actors have been an ongoing presence in camps in these areas pressuring both IDPs and humanitarian organizations to facilitate departures, regardless of clearance to return to their areas of origin; this includes people for whom areas of origin are not yet conducive to return due to lack of basic services, livelihood opportunities, housing, or social cohesion, or the presence of unexploded ordnance.

Families with perceived affiliations to IS continue to be among the most vulnerable in Iraq, and their needs are growing as the position of the Government of Iraq and fellow citizens hardens against them. **Families are often separated** as men and boys are subjected to multiple **security screenings, illegal and arbitrary detention** or killed. The situation for the female headed households, intimidated by armed security actors, significantly increase the **risks for Gender Based Violence** for women and girls and hinders access to medical or psychosocial care. The stigmatized groups, indiscriminately perceived as IS supporters, are prevented, or not able, to return to their areas of origin or relocate elsewhere in the country, remaining totally dependent on humanitarian assistance and facing severe protection risks and abuse.

In both IDP camps and out-of-camp settings, minimum standards for targeted populations are not being reached, across all technical sectors according to the UN. This can be attributed to a range of factors, including the inflation of population figures in some camps by households and camp management, the existence of many camps with small remaining populations spread over large geographic areas, inadequate monitoring and lack of sufficient funding. Health and GBV services have been particularly affected in 2019, with service closures rendering some populations without access to essential services in high risk locations. Equally, lack of predictability around camp closures and consolidation is limiting planning for WASH services and upgrades.

Security and safety risks are also significant. Contamination by **mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO)** continue to impede security and stability efforts as well as development initiatives until areas and buildings are cleared and rendered safe.

Hundreds of thousands of returnees are faced with **extensive damage** to homes, public infrastructure and livelihoods, and a **lack of basic services** such as water, electricity, schools and hospitals. A significant majority of IDPs reside outside of camps, mostly within the Kurdistan Region and Ninewa, often in informal settlements or in unfinished or abandoned buildings in overstrained host communities.

Substandard living conditions with **insufficient sanitation** and psychosocial trauma associated with protracted displacement increase the risks of deteriorated health conditions and intensify psychosocial needs. Only 4 out of 10 children are fully vaccinated, with the poorest children particularly at risk of missing out. Half of all Iraqi households are at risk of drinking contaminated water and less than 40 per cent of the population has access to drinking water at home, placing children at grave risk of waterborne diseases. Humanitarian actors so far have reached the large majority of IDPs in camps with assistance but much less those who are outside of camp settings. The 2020 HRP puts a stronger emphasis on out of camp IDPs.

Children in Iraq, as in most humanitarian crisis, are particularly vulnerable. More than 700,000 displaced children have missed at least a whole year of **schooling** and 7,000 new or rehabilitated school-buildings are needed over the next five years to meet the needs. Moreover, there is a significant lack of teachers. UNICEF estimates that more than 1 million children require psychosocial support to cope with the invisible wounds of war and attending school regularly could be an essential part of healing.

Risk to humanitarian operations

Political deadlock, particularly in light of the massive demonstrations which started at the end of 2019, and the delayed implementation of recovery and resilience activities pose potential risks for humanitarian activities.

In parallel, Iraq is prone to environmental challenges and natural hazards. Humanitarians must undertake collective preparedness and contingency planning to meet identifiable risks which could impact the realization of their mandate. According to an incident tracking matrix piloted by the CCCM and Protection clusters in camps in Ninewa (to be replicated elsewhere), incidents including **interference with distributions or diversion of assistance**, restriction of movement, GBV (including **exploitation and abuse**), **verbal and physical assaults**, and **arbitrary arrests/detentions** have all been recorded. These are primarily due to violations of the civilian character of camps (i.e. the presence of armed security actors within IDP camps).

Humanitarian needs in Iraq are coupled with institutional weakness and general challenges in societal pillars, such as law, order, stability and justice. **Corruption** is widespread, and the humanitarian sector is not spared. According to Transparency International's latest Corruption Perception Index from 2019, Iraq is among the most corrupt countries in the world, ranking 168 out of 180 with destructive effects on development and political stability.

1.4. Strategic objectives and priorities of the Humanitarian Response Plan

The Humanitarian Needs Overview has identified 4.1 million people in need. The target population is 1.77 million people.

The 2020 Iraq HRP prioritizes interventions that will address problems related to physical and mental well-being and living standards. Problems related to recovery and resilience are not strategic priorities, but concerted efforts will be made to ensure proper linkages between the HRP, the planned durable solutions action plan and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF).

The Humanitarian Response Plan has four overarching strategic objectives:

1. Addressing critical problems related to **physical and mental well-being**, with the specific objectives to provide safe and secure living environments and access to livelihoods, assist returnees to meeting basic needs and minimize reliance on negative coping strategies and ensure equal and inclusive access to services
2. Address critical problems related to **living standards**, with the specific objectives to ensure safe and dignified living conditions, ensure quality and up-to-standard WASH, health and education services and enable returnees to achieve self-reliance.
3. Addressing critical problems related to **protection**, with the specific objectives to protect the rights of, and promote solutions for, people with perceived affiliation to extremist groups, strengthen accountability to affected populations and support the integration of Centrality of Protection in the post-conflict transition towards durable solutions.

2. IN COUNTRY HUMANITARIAN CAPACITIES

2.1. National and local capacities and constraints

Government (national, sub-national, local)

Both the Iraqi Government and the Kurdistan Regional Government have shown willingness and ability to respond to humanitarian needs, but the extent of needs as well as budgetary and political crises in Iraq have severely challenged

the response capacity. During 2019, the Iraqi Government intensified its ambition to close IDP camps, with the goal to have all IDPs return home by the end of 2019. Many camps outside Kurdistan were closed with little notice to humanitarian partners or affected communities. Some displaced persons moved to other camps and others moved to other locations, often in urban settings. Still, a large number of people remain in camps.

The National Democratic Institute (NDI) reports that there is a lack of trust in both central and local government and citizens have a limited role in the public decision-making processes. Coupled with high demand for services, jobs, and curbing corruption, this distrust could have deep social, political, and security consequences. The resignation of the Prime Minister on 1 December 2019 might further impact the ability of the government to respond and lead to continued social unrest. In the longer term, NDI states, the sentiment that the state is unable to deliver on people's everyday needs, might extend to democracy being perceived as an ineffective form of government, which could pave the way for antidemocratic figures to put forward demagogic proposals in order to win votes.

The global INFORM index place Iraq as number 8 out of 191 countries with a score of 7.0 indicating a very high risk for humanitarian crises that overwhelm national response capacity.

Civil society incl. NGOs (national, sub-national, local)

National NGOs have played an important role in reaching people in need in areas where access was more restrained for international organisations during the armed conflict. There is a growing consciousness on the need for a more localized humanitarian response as the emergency turns more into a phase of stabilization and recovery.

The Iraqi Red Crescent Society (IRCS) is operating with a nationwide network of branch offices with both staff and volunteers. The IRCS is supported by International Federation of the Red Cross/Crescent (IFRC) and collaborate with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Already in 2003, The NGO Coordination Committee for Iraq (NCCI) was founded as a member-led organisation with the mission to coordinate principled, collective NGO action in order to foster development, address humanitarian needs, and promote respect for rights in Iraq. Originally membership was limited to international NGOs, but in 2005, in an effort to empower Iraq's civil society, NCCI opened up membership to national NGOs, thereby enhancing their links with the international aid community. NCCI now has about 180 NGO members.

Oxfam's mapping of local NGOs shows very low capacity, which should give guidance to future collaborations in terms of expectations on results, risk management and planning.

Community and household level

The resilience and coping capacities of IDPs and host communities are increasingly exhausted after years of massive displacement. Many IDPs suffering secondary displacement have depleted their savings, sold off their assets and taken on debts. The increasing vulnerability enhance risks of negative coping mechanisms such as early and forced marriage for girls and child labour. Resources in host communities dwindle, and in some locations, cause tensions between host communities and displaced families.

2.2. International operational capacities and constraints

The Humanitarian Country Team, HCT, has a strong leadership in OCHA and the Humanitarian Coordinator, and member organizations (many of whom are Sida's humanitarian partners) participate in HCT meetings at high level. The Iraq Humanitarian Fund, IHF, is one of the largest globally and is an important tool for locally led response. Sweden participates in meetings in the HCT and can participate in humanitarian coordination mechanisms through staff in Iraq.

There are also a large number of organizations operating outside the cluster system. Major efforts to coordinate with these groups to ensure greater impact and coherence are being made under the leadership of the Iraqi and Kurdish authorities for crisis coordination and civil defence.

In parallel, UNHCR coordinates the Syrian refugee response in Iraq as part of the regional L3 Syrian crisis including the neighbouring countries.

The HRP 2019 was over 88 % funded.

2.3. International and regional assistance

At this moment, the top ten humanitarian donors to Iraq include, according to OCHA: the United States (57 %), Germany, Canada, the European Commission, Japan, the United Kingdom, Australia, France, Sweden and Belgium. Qatar was the only donor from the region in 2019.

There is also assistance provided by NGOs, private donors and religious organisations that is not registered as part of the HRP. OCHA reported 224 MUSD outside the HRP in 2019. Several humanitarian donors, including Sweden, also provide funding to stabilization and recovery in Iraq, e.g. through UNDP's Funding Facility for Stabilization (FFS).

The latest reading of OCHA's Humanitarian Response Dashboard in November 2019 lists a total of 157 humanitarian partners responding to the Iraq crisis.

Over 269,000 Iraqi refugees are registered with UNHCR in neighbouring countries, and around 235,000 Syrian refugees have sought protection in Iraq (November 2019), the majority being women and children living out of camps in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. The needs of the Syrian refugees in Iraq are addressed in the Syria 3RP.

2.4. Access situation

In late 2019, the access situation deteriorated as the granting of so called **access letters** was suspended. Such permissions were previously issued every 30 days by a mandated governmental body. However, since November 2019, aid deliveries throughout Iraq slowed considerably, due to the discontinuation of previously agreed-upon access authorization procedures, and the absence of viable alternative mechanisms. The situation had not been resolved by the end of January 2020.

Even before the suspension of granting access letters, access was an issue. According to the HNO, almost 4.1 million people in need, including 1.3 million IDPs, reside in districts with moderate to high access constraints. According to the Humanitarian Country Team, there are a few key factors that hinder access, including restrictions on or interference with the passage of agencies, personnel and goods, lack of security and violence against personnel, assets and facilities.

Adding to this, the Iraqi government also attempted to curb the recent protests by **shutting down internet services**. This posed significant challenges to humanitarian actors too, slowing communication across areas of operation.

Most of the access constraints coincide with the most pertinent needs for assistance. The most commonly highlighted access concerns mentioned are related to **security considerations, movement restrictions and government-imposed bureaucratic impediments**. Movement restrictions through checkpoints, harassment, intimidation – and in some cases – extortion continue to delay or block humanitarian staff and aid deliveries.

The multiplicity and fragmentation of state security forces and other armed actors, each with their own command structures and varying geographical presence, and the presence of an international coalition, has resulted in an operating environment with territorial control by military and civil actors that do not always have a clear chain of command and control. Access constraints are especially present in areas where there is weak control by the national authorities, or in areas where there are overlapping or unclear administrative boundaries.

The UN states that of the 60 districts with humanitarian presence or programmes in the central and northern governorates, 62 % are accessible or have relatively low access constraints. Approximately 28 % of districts in central and northern governorates have moderate access constraints, while only six districts – three in Ninewa and three in Salah al-Din – are extremely difficult to access. In several governorates, movement of humanitarian organizations, including personnel and supplies, has been increasingly restricted, with local-level authorities disregarding nationally-agreed procedures for obtaining access letters. Military actors and civil authorities are demanding additional approvals locally, specifically additional letters other than or in addition to the national-level letters of authorization (JCMC), i.e. many organizations are being required to obtain additional access letters authorizing humanitarian activities.

ACAPS states that the access situation has deteriorated in Iraq and is classified as "Nearly inaccessible". This is due to different documentation requirements, but also issues such as unexploded ordnance and IS activities.

Extensive floods in 2019 and poor road infrastructure also caused physical constraints, a problem that may be replicated in 2020 as well.

OCHA reports that the **operational independence of humanitarian actors has often been obstructed**, including through periodic demands for beneficiary data. In areas of origin, access to specialized services for GBV survivors is limited. Most access related incidents (about 80 % of reported incidents) are related to administrative restrictions on humanitarian activities and movements. All organization types (UN, INGOs, NNGOs) reported checkpoint-related

access difficulties in at least half of all districts covered. Many NGOs are unable to conduct activities without obtaining separate “facilitation” letters from local authorities, according to OCHA. These letters and other “bureaucratic impediments” are conditioned on the submission of activity progress reports and other obligations. Most cases are reported in Ninewa governorate, but also in Anbar, Diyala, Kirkuk and Salah al-Din. Violence toward humanitarian actors is less common, but occasionally reported.

3. SIDA’S HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN

3.1. The role of Sida

Sida’s allocation for humanitarian support to Iraq in 2019 was 104 MSEK focusing on protection, infrastructure recovery, WASH, and livelihoods, and included cash components. By the beginning of December, Sida had decided on two RRM supports for Syrian refugees in Northern Iraq (Save the Children and NRC), and one support of 5 MSEK to FAO for supporting rural returnees in Iraq to rehabilitate agricultural assets and equipment, raising the total support in 2019 to **113 MSEK**. In general projects and programmes were implemented according to plans.

During 2020, a key issue for Sida will be to make sure the links between humanitarian interventions and development support are strengthened. Sida’s bilateral strategy is closely linked to the humanitarian support and could be seen as a good example. Humanitarian actors in Iraq have however criticized the lack of coordination, which is a problem since there is a window of opportunity to find synergies in Iraq right now. Sida should emphasize the need for better collaboration and showcase good examples when possible. This will be part of Sida’s follow-up and dialogue in 2020.

Many results from the previous period are reported on activity level and sometimes the level of analysis should be strengthened. Several partners report on gender equality, but the gender perspective should be further strengthened. It is worth noting Save the Children’s findings that boys tend to respond better to psycho-social support than girls. Lessons learnt should be shared to make sure interventions are designed as efficient as possible for all target groups. Interventions related to psycho-social support will also be followed-up during 2020.

3.2. Response Priorities 2020

Humanitarian Focus

Sida’s humanitarian assistance will focus geographically mainly on Ninewa and Anbar governorates as areas with most extensive and severe humanitarian needs. Support will also be directed to other governorates with high levels of vulnerable populations like Salah al-Din, Dohuk, Kirkuk and Diyala. In the current phase, partners emphasize **protection, psycho-social support, infrastructure recovery** (mainly WASH) and **livelihoods**. Some partners include elements of cash components. There are also elements of **education** among the proposed projects, e.g. with NRC and Save the Children.

The support will primarily target acutely vulnerable IDPs, both in and out of camps, and returnees, who will be supported to meet needs related to their physical and mental well-being and living standards. IDPs will also be supported to strengthen their resilience and move towards **economic independence** to reduce humanitarian aid dependency. Sida will also support vulnerable out-of-camp populations. As the number of returnees grows, humanitarian organizations will provide support related to well-being and living standards for acutely vulnerable returnees, and support increased engagement with and by governmental and development entities to develop **durable solutions** in areas of origin. ICRC has strong components relating to **IHL, health and restoring family links**.

Protection for all population groups will remain an overarching goal for humanitarian organizations in 2020, including by strengthening areas of cross-cutting application such as accountability to affected populations and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. The interventions will target the vulnerable groups outlined in section 1.2.

3.3. Partners

In the selection of partners, priority has been given to organisations who have plans well in line with the draft HRP and reach the most affected populations. Several multilateral organisations and ICRC have been chosen based on their unique mandates and relevance in the context. INGOs have been chosen based along the same conditions, but also on their ability to work with local partners and build capacity of local actors. In an ambition to consolidate the portfolio, no new partners have been added.

ICRC

Support: 15,000,000 SEK

ICRC is important to secure protection and to promote compliance with IHL. The ICRC in Iraq has an important role in the monitoring of treatment and living conditions of detainees, work to ascertain the fate of missing persons, including handover of human remains, and family-link services to families separated by conflict. The ICRC also provides emergency relief, supports primary health care and hospitals, including support to physical rehabilitation, and increasingly also contributes to early recovery and resilience. Limited cash assistance is provided to female breadwinners.

UNHCR

Support: 10,000,000 SEK

UNHCR's focus will remain on ensuring protection and gradual transition from humanitarian assistance to development programming through strengthening national protection systems, access to employment, inclusion in national systems, and identifying comprehensive solutions for people of concern. UNHCR also works to find solutions to displacement and to ensure Syrian refugees achieve self-sufficiency and access legal, social and economic rights.

OCHA – Iraq Humanitarian Fund, IHF

Support: 10,000,000 SEK

IHF is a country based pooled fund that enables Sida to reach humanitarian actors not receiving direct support from Sida and it is an important tool for support to national NGOs that often have the ability to reach highly vulnerable populations, and contribute to a localized response.

OCHA

Support: 3,000,000 SEK

OCHA plays a key role in the coordination and information management regarding the large-scale and complex humanitarian response in Iraq and continued support is proposed to ensure effectiveness.

Islamic Relief

Support: 9,000,000 SEK

Islamic Relief has been working in Iraq since 1997 and has almost exclusively national staff. The project presented builds on lessons learned from previous Sida-financed projects with enhanced focus on resilience including income generating activities.

Geographical area: Ninewa (Talafar, TalKaif, Hamadiniya, Qayarra and Mosul)

Target group: 45,000 people (roughly 50/50 women/men, girls/boys)

NRC

Support: 10,000,000 SEK

NRC is one of the largest International NGOs in Iraq with around 500 national and 60 expat staff. Since 2017, Sida provides programme-based support to NRC for multi-sector assistance to IDP, returnees, refugees and host communities in both camp and non-camp settings.

Geographic areas: Predominantly Dohuk, Kirkuk, Ninewa and Anbar

Target group: Approximately 224,000 people

Swedish Red Cross

Support: 6,500,000 SEK

The Swedish Red Cross has been involved in a partnership with the Iraqi Red Crescent for many years for the organisational development of the national movement. Since 2015 the Swedish Red Cross has also supported the Iraqi Red Crescent's capacity to implement humanitarian WASH-projects. The proposal for 2020 builds on this, but focuses on a smaller geographical area.

Geographical areas: Diyala, Salah al-Din

Target group: 60,000 persons (50/50 men/women)

Save the Children

Support: 6,000,000 SEK

Save the Children intends to continue the current response in and around the city of Mosul in Ninewa. The project targets the HRP-defined priority to provide specialized support to children and adolescents suffering from abuse and violence and facilitate community-based support for families affected by the conflict.

Geographical area: Mosul

Target group: 5,500 children (50/50 girls/boys) and 3,750 parents and caregivers (2/3 women)

Church of Sweden (through Danish Church Aid)
Support: 3,900,000 SEK

Church of Sweden, through its partner Danish Church Aid, intends to focus on community-based psycho-social support for Syrian refugees, Iraqi IDPs and host communities to strengthen well-being, community resiliencies and social cohesion.

Geographic areas: Erbil (Daratu) and Dohok (Domiz)
Target group: 20,000 people

3.4. Strategic funding in protracted crises

Oxfam enters the last year of the previously agreed organizational development of selected local NGOs, for them to become more sustainable, access funds on their own, and ultimately, for the humanitarian response in Iraq to be more locally led. Oxfam will also continue to provide small short-term grants to the local NGOs for organizational development and/or response capacity, as well as seed money for piloting new initiatives and tools. The programme has proven successful in strengthening capacity, and could also be seen as a way of promoting the Grand Bargain commitments on localisation as more local actors will have the capacity to implement interventions.

SIDA'S HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO IRAQ in 2020		
<i>(Insert total sum allocated to country. If another sum is proposed, please indicate that sum with a second/separate table)</i>		
Recommended partner for Sida support	Sector/focus of work (incl. cross sectoral/ multipurpose programming) and response modalities (e.g. in-kind, services, CVP or a mix)	Proposed amount
ICRC	Non-earmarked multi-sector support.	15,000,000
UNHCR	Non-earmarked multi-sector support (shelter, CCCM, NFI, protection, cash).	10,000,000
OCHA Fund	Nationwide support to national and international organisations for projects in line with the HRP.	10,000,000
OCHA coordination	Coordination of humanitarian support in Iraq.	3,000,000
Islamic Relief	Livelihoods and WASH – with focus on durable solutions. Rehabilitation of water schemes (including cash for work), hygiene awareness and kits.	9,000,000
NRC	Education, ICLA, shelter and settlements, camp management and urban displacement and out of camp, cash/livelihoods and advocacy.	10,000,000
Swedish Red Cross	Repair and rehabilitation of water infrastructure and WASH services.	6,500,000
Church of Sweden	Community-based psycho-social support, community resiliencies and social cohesion.	3,900,000
Save the Children	Child protection – child safe spaces in community centers, male action programmes, parenting programmes, child protection committees, trainings.	6,000,000
		TOTAL: 73,400,000

SIDA'S MULTIYEAR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO IRAQ				
<i>(Insert total sum allocated to country. If another sum is proposed, please indicate that sum with a second/separate table)</i>				
Recommended partner for Sida support	Sector/focus of work (incl. cross sectoral/ multipurpose programming) and response modalities (e.g. in-kind, services, CVP or a mix)	Category: a) Protracted crisis b) Exit/phase-out	Time-span (Proposed amount
Oxfam	Building local humanitarian leadership	a) Protracted crisis	2018-2020	5,000,000
				TOTAL: 5,000,000

3.5. Synergies and Nexus

Funding from Sida's bilateral strategy with Iraq supports several interventions in the same geographical areas as the humanitarian response. One of the objectives in Sweden Strategy for Development Cooperation with Iraq (2017–2021) is focused on resilience. Contributions to UNMAS and DDG/DRC for mine action, peace and security, promotion of resilience for returnees and communities in Ninewa, and the Funding Facility for Stabilization (UNDP) all have strong connection to the humanitarian support.

The support to the Swedish Contingency Agency (MSB) aims to strengthen local contingency agencies in both Kurdistan and other parts of Iraq, which is in line with the HRP for 2020. Collaboration with MercyCorps on livelihoods and social cohesion, and with UNFPA on GBV work both in and out of camps is also relevant in the nexus context. In these cases, the humanitarian and development interventions complement each other well. Stakeholders in Iraq do however call for improvements in the collaboration between development and humanitarian actors.

Several humanitarian partners are looking into durable solutions, including e.g. UN agencies, NRC, Save the Children and Oxfam. This could serve as an entry point for joint discussions on transition from humanitarian to development funding (also through local NGOs).

Many partners, both humanitarian and development actors, are active in the discussions on nexus issues in Iraq. Most actors express a willingness to bridge the gap between humanitarian and development and peace interventions. With strengthened presence of Sida staff at the Embassy of Sweden in Baghdad, there is room for improved collaboration and dialogue on nexus related issues.

Main sources

Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan 2019 Monitoring Report January–May

Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan 2020

Iraq Humanitarian Needs Overview 2020

<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/iraq/>

ECHO Humanitarian Implementation Plan Iraq 2019

Reporting, publications and plans by implementing partners (OCHA IHF, UNHCR, UNICEF, Islamic Relief, NRC, Save the Children, Church of Sweden, ICRC, Oxfam).

Publications and reports from non-partners, e.g. IOM, World Bank, UNDP, International Crisis Group, National Democratic Institute

National and international media outlets.